(b) what is the time schedule for the implementation of the Punjab Refinery Project;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for Punjab Refinery Project during the financial year 1999-2000 and if so, how much amount has been released; and

(d) whether the Environmental Clearance for single point mooring and crude oil terminal at Gujarat is pending with Government and if so, what is the present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) had submitted detailed feasibility report for 9 million metric tonne per annum grassroot refinery project, along with associated facilities, at Bhatinda in Punjab vide their letter dated 26.12.1997. Government's approval to the project was conveyed on 13.11.1998.

(b) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months after firming up of the joint venture partner for the project.

(c) Since the project is to be implemented by HPCL with a joint venture partner, no funds are required to be allocated by the Government for this project.

(d) Requisite environmental clearance for Single Point Mooring and Crude Oil Terminal has been accorded on 24.4.2000.

Use of Hindi Typewriter in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

†4984. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such officers under his Ministry/Department which do not have single Hindi typewriter, so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter, so far and the officers responsible for such negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure compliance for targets fixed for the purchases of Hindi typewriters by the department of official Language in its annual Hindi programme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not department or subordinate office under it. So far as the Ministry is concerned, there are 58 electronic bilingual typewriters.

Decision of OPEC to increase Crude Production

4985. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of OPEC to increase crude production will reduce India's import bill;

(b) if so, whether due to the decision of the OPEC, Government propose to reduce the price of petroleum products in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what would be the impact of the decision of the OPEC on our public sector oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) OPEC members (excluding Iran) in their meeting held on 27.3.2000 agreed to increase the production of crude oil by 1.45 million barrels per day which has resulted in some fall in oil prices in international market. OPEC have, however, decided to review their decision in June, 2000. Currently, prices of oil in international market are volatile. The oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices. There is no proposal to reduce prices of controlled petroleum products.

(d) The refinery margins depend on price differentials in the crude oil and product prices. Our oil companies, including the public sector oil companies, would bear the financial impact depending on the oil and prodcut price parity in the international market.

Marketing Rights to Private and Joint Sector Refineries

4986. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to grant marketing rights to private and joint sector refineries in the country;